CED AGENDA: 5/19/14 ITEM: D (2)



## Memorandum

TO:

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

FROM:

Kerry Adams Hapner

Lee Wilcox

SUBJECT:

SEE BELOW

DATE:

May 9, 2014

Approved

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Date

lay 9, 2019

**SUBJECT:** 

UPDATE ON ST. JAMES PARK REVITALIZATION AND LEVITT

PAVILION EXPLORATORY COMMITTEE

At the May 19<sup>th</sup> meeting, a verbal report will be presented to the Community and Economic Development Committee (CEDC) on the St. James Park Revitalization efforts and the Friends of Levitt San Jose Exploratory Committee.

## St. James Park Revitalization Efforts

Since February 2014, a group of City staff and downtown stakeholders have been meeting to address the current environment in St. James Park, including its short-term strategy and potential long-term solutions. The group is now implementing a workplan focused on activation, safety and ongoing maintenance. City staff will be present at the CEDC meeting to give an update.

## Friends of Levitt San Jose Exploratory Committee

On December 3, 2013, the City Council authorized the City Manager to participate in a community-led process to explore a partnership with the national nonprofit Levitt Pavilions. A Friends of Levitt San Jose Exploratory Committee was subsequently formed for the purpose of assessing the feasibility of a Levitt Pavilion in St. James Park, including a sustainable Friends of Levitt organization in San Jose.

Per the Levitt Foundation's requirements, a Levitt Pavilion in San Jose would be run by an independent nonprofit organization and would present a minimum of 50 free music performances annually. The Levitt Foundation would invest significant matching capital and ongoing operating funds in the pavilion and organization. In turn, it requires significant community support and City partnership.

The committee, chaired by Jack Wimberly and Jim Reber, meets regularly and has developed a framework for its approach. The committee plans to submit its findings in the form of a written report to the full City Council by the end of 2014. The process and final report will address physical design and location; the Friends of Levitt San Jose governance, programming and fundraising; community outreach and input. The committee is presenting an update to the CEDC

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

May 9, 2014

Subject: Update on St. James Park Revitalization and Levitt Pavilion Exploratory Committee

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on its work-to-date and its timeline to complete the feasibility project and recommendation to City Council.

/s/

KERRY ADAMS HAPNER

Director

Office of Cultural Affairs

/s/

LEE WILCOX

Downtown Manager

Assistant to the City Manager

For questions regarding the St. James Revitalization efforts or Friends of Levitt San Jose Exploratory Committee, please contact Assistant to the City Manager Lee Wilcox at (408) 535-8172 or Cultural Affairs Director Kerry Adams Hapner at (408) 793-4333.